



Service Center

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Fresno County FSA Office

4625 W Jennifer Street
Suite 109
Fresno, CA 93722
559-276-7494 (phone)
559-276-1791 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Loan Manager

Tom Roberts, FLM
Farm Loan Staff
Phoua Yang

Farm Program Staff

Mildred Jones,
Bee Payne
Christy Villas
Wanda Medina
Chris San Nicolas
Robert Martinez
Nangpay Vang
Annie Lee
Darci Cullers
Sean Gallaher
CSUF Summer Interns:
Ben Holt, Phillip Freeborn
Roxanne Buffington,
Mike Marsh, Kevin Costa

County Committee

Jean Errotabere, Chair
Carl Buxman, Vice Chair
Keith Freitas, member

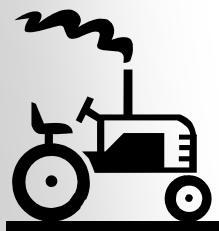
Committee Advisors

Kuldip "Cal" Kaleka
Will Scott Jr.
Challee Xiong

COUNTY COMMITTEE
MEETS ON THE SECOND
THURSDAY OF EACH
MONTH

Executive Director

Russ L. Friend



Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

July
2007

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLIC PROGRAM (DCP) SIGNUP

Sign-up for 2007 DCP is underway. Producers involved with this program must signup every year to receive payment. Call now to make your appointment. FSA has extended the normal June 1 deadline to August 3, 2007. **Farms enrolled after the August 3, 2007 deadline are subject to a \$100 per-farm late fee. NO FARMS WILL BE ENROLLED AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**

2007 COMPLIANCE AND SPOTCHECK

As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA will conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of producers selected by the National Office. FSA may review a producer's operation in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations.

FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers can provide safe and abundant food and fiber for consumers at home and abroad.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Elections will be held in December to choose a representative to serve on the County Committee (COC). FSA is seeking interested producers to be placed on the election ballot. Nominations will be accepted through August 1, 2007.

This election is for Local Administrative Area 2 which includes producers in Fresno County living west of Highway 99 and east of the Fresno Slough. Nomination forms are available at the FSA office and must be returned or postmarked by August 1, 2007.

FSA's relationship with farmers and ranchers goes back to the 1930s. At that time, Congress set up a unique system under which Federal farm programs were to be administered locally. Farmers and ranchers who are eligible to participate in these programs elect a three- to five-person county committee, which reviews county office operations and makes some of the decisions on how to apply the programs. This grassroots approach gives farmers and ranchers a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect their communities and their individual operations. All farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age are eligible to serve on the COC and vote in the elections.

August 1, 2007:

Last day to file nomination forms at the USDA Service Center.

November 2, 2007:

Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 3, 2007:

Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

**THE NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (NAP)**

NAP coverage is similar to that provided by Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance and is available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities produced for food or fiber for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock. NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop.

Producers who already have coverage on 2007 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2008, if the applicable service fee is paid by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. The service fee is \$100 per crop with a \$300 maximum fee.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from previous year's coverage or change crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the service fee.

Producers with 2007 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, packing house packing records, cash sale records, farmer's market sales records, etc.
- File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the disaster occurrence or when the loss is apparent.

Crop year 2008	Application Closing Date
Multi Planting - Green Beans	8/1/2007
All other annuals	3/1/2008
Almonds, Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Avocados, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peach Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranate, Rye Grain, Walnuts	12/15/2007
Onions, Honey	12/1/2007
Fall planted Seed Crops	8/1/2007
Forage Crops, Rangeland	9/1/2007
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops.	9/1/2007

FSA SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file.

Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

GRAIN AND WOOL PRODUCERS LDP FORM

By signing the first page of the 633EZ form, producers indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

This form must be signed before beneficial interest in the crop is lost. Once page 1 of the EZ form has been signed, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest. Please call Chris at the FSA office if you have any questions.

**AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT
DISCLOSURE ACT (AFIDA)**

USDA regulations, 7 CFR Section 781.1 for AFIDA specify that when a foreign person acquires or transfers an interest in U.S. Agricultural land, such transactions shall be disclosed to the Secretary of Agriculture on AFIDA Report forms FSA-153. The report must be filed with the County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office within 90 calendar days of the date of the transaction. If you have any questions, please contact the Fresno FSA office and speak with Christy.

DISASTER PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

Sign up will begin late in the fall of 2007

Crop Disaster Program:

All crops are eligible. However, producers must have purchased crop insurance or coverage under the agency's Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) in order to qualify. Eligible losses are those that exceeded 35 percent and occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (2007 crops must have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007) as a result of a natural disaster. The producer will choose one year for benefits.

Emergency Conservation Program:

Nationwide, \$16 million has been made available for the cleanup and restoration of farm and agricultural production lands damaged by hurricanes, floods etc.

Livestock Programs:

Producers choose for each livestock program one of three years for which they would receive benefits. Fresno County is eligible for crop year 2006 and 2007 (up to Feb. 28, 2007)

The Livestock Compensation Program provides benefits for producers in designated disaster counties for their added costs of procuring livestock feed in 2006 or 2007 (up to Feb. 28, 2007). Eligible livestock under are: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, deer, and catfish.

The Livestock Indemnity Program makes payment available to producers that have incurred more than normal livestock losses in 2006 or 2007 (up to Feb. 28, 2007), due to a disaster. A producer will select the losses in one year for benefits.

The Dairy Assistance Program compensates producers for reduced milk production due to a natural disaster in a declared disaster county. Nationwide, \$16 million is available.

Milk Income Loss Contract Program

This program extends the MILCX program for one additional month, through Sept. 30, 2007.

FARM RECONSTITUTION

FSA requires a farm reconstitution when:

- there has been a change in operators
- there has been an improper constitution
- the farm was constituted based upon false information
- the land is no longer operated as a farm
- the owner makes a request for reconstitution

Reconstitution Signature Requirements

FSA-155 shall be signed by all of the following:

- sellers
- buyers (transferees).

Exception: When an MOU that is signed by all sellers and buyers is filed with the FSA office, signatures of all sellers and buyers are not required on FSA-155.

The methods and order of farm division that FSA uses are Estate, Designation by Landowner, DCP cropland and Default.

Definition of Estate Method

[7 CFR Part 718.205] The estate method is the division of bases for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate. A copy of the will or an agreement signed by all the heirs as to the division of bases is required.

Definition of Designation by Landowner Method

[7 CFR Part 718.205] The designation by landowner method is the division of bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee.

Definition of DCP Cropland Method

[7 CFR Part 718.205] The DCP cropland method is the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.

This method may be used when the County Committee determines that the Estate or Landowner Method does not apply.

A Definition of Default Method

The default method is the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Fresno County Farm Service Agency
4625 W Jennifer Street
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Fresno, CA 93722-6424

**Important information enclosed about
USDA farm programs. Please read carefully.**

Important Dates and Deadlines	
July 15, 2007	Spring seeded crop certification due. Please provide planting dates.
Various Dates	NAP application deadlines. See page 2 for details
NAP Crop Damage Report	No later than 15 days from date of damaging weather occurrence
Prevented Planting Claims	No later than 14 days after the crop insurance final planting date for the prevented crop.
August 3, 2007	DCP signup deadline to avoid \$100 per farm late fee
September 30, 2007	DCP signup deadline. No exceptions
FSA Office Closures September 3, 2007	Labor Day

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PAYMENTS IS MANDATORY

As of January 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. **For those already signed up, it is extremely important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution.** If we are not notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

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